

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
SUBJECT: DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL: PRESS REACTION

REF: STATE 204258

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE PRESS IN COMMENTING ON LABOR COST PROVISION (SECTION 862) IN HOUSE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL HAS SYMPATHIZED WITH UNION POSITION THAT BILL IS BASED ON OVER-SIMPLIFIED COMPARISON OF WAGES OF BASE WORKERS VS. PUBLIC SERVICE PERSONNEL. PRESS ALSO QUOTES TOP OFFICIALS OF DEFENSE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION AGENCY (DFAA) AS EXPRESSING STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT BILL. AT SAME TIME, JDA HAS CONTINUED TO ATTEMPT TO SIT STAGE FOR FURTHER COST-SHARING IN JFY 1979 THROUGH PRESS BRIEFINGS RESULTING IN ARTICLES SUGGESTING ADDITIONAL RELIEF FOR HOUSING, FACILITIES, AND, HOPEFULLY LABOR COSTS IN AMOUNT OF \$150 MILLION.

2. YOMIURI (AUG 9) AND ASAHI (AUG 14) CARRIED COMMENTARIES
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OPPOSING LABOR COST PROVISION IN HOUSE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL. BOTH DAILIES IDENTIFY GAO REPORT AS INSPIRATION FOR SECTION 862 INTRODUCED BY HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND QUOTE TOP OFFICIALS OF ZEN CHURO (ALL-SECURITY FORCES WORKERS UNION) AND DFAA (GOJ AGENT FOR NEGOTIATING WITH BASE WORKERS) AS CHALLENGING BASIC PREMISE THAT BASE WORKERS ARE OVERPAID. ZEN CHURO CHAIRMAN OIKAWA CLAIMS

AVERAGE BASE WORKER'S WAGE WAS TWO TO THREE PERCENT LOWER THAN GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES WAGES IN SPITE OF OLDER AGE OF WORK FORCE AT BASES, AND QUESTIONED NEED FOR WAGE FREEZE ON TOP OF OKINAWA RIF. DFAA DIRGEN WATARI IS QUOTED AS AGREEING THAT WAGES FOR BASE WORKERS WERE COMPARABLE TO THOSE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PERSONNEL, AND HOPING THAT SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD NOT BE PASSED BY SENATE.

3. AT SAME TIME, WATARI CONTINUED JDA'S CONDITIONING EFFORT TO PREPARE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL GOJ COST-SHARING. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 11, PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN ALL PAPERS, WATARI REVIEWED PAST COST SHARING HISTORY AND OUTLINED INTENTION TO BREAK THROUGH PAST PRECEDENTS IN REGARD TO NEW FACILITY CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION OF HOUSING, ETC. (OHIRA VIEW), AS WELL AS TO DO SOMETHING MORE ON LABOR FRONT. WATARI SPOKE ABOUT ASSUMING FACILITIES EXPENSES OF 20-24 BILLION YEN (\$100-120 MILLION) OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD, OF WHICH 13 BILLION YEN(\$65 MILLION) WOULD BE REQUESTED FOR JFY 79. IN ADDITION, CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO REQUESTING SEVERAL BILLION YEN FOR LABOR COSTS IN ADDITION TO APPROPRIATION FOR ITEMS FOR WHICH GOJ ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY LAST YEAR (6.2 BILLION YEN IN JFY 78). MANSFIELD

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